

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office action dated April 27, 2004 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 3). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

It is respectfully noted that on September 21, 2004, a phone conference was had with Examiner Myers, as to the concurrently filed Petition to Accept Unintentionally Delayed Claim For Priority Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(3) and Supplemental Amendment to properly claim priority to the to PCT Application Number PCT/JP98/05449 filed on December 3, 1998. The Examiner was advised that if the aforementioned petition is granted, the 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority date of December 3, 1998 of the corresponding PCT Application Number PCT/JP98/05449 would predate, and therefore remove, the cited and applied U.S. Patent No. 6,526,462 to Elabd (filing date of November 19, 1999) and U.S. Patent No. 6,263,022 to Chen et al. (filing date of July 6, 1999) as references against the claimed subject matter of the above referenced application. This assistance of the Examiner is greatly appreciated.

The Examiner is respectfully advised that the aforementioned concurrently filed Supplemental Amendment with the above-referenced petition requests insertion of the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2) before TECHNICAL FIELD on page 1 of the above-referenced application as follows:

This application is a continuation of PCT Application Number PCT/JP98/05449 filed on December 3, 1998, which designates the United States, and claims priority therefrom under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

The Examiner is also respectfully advised that an Information Disclosure Statement is also being concurrently filed with this Response and Amendment. Acknowledgment and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, Claims 1 through 28 are pending in this application. Claims 4, 6-8, 10, 12, 18-22, and 26-28 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Entry of the amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

Additional Amendments

The specification and the abstract are being amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention as claimed. Entry of the amendments to the specification and abstract are respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3, 6, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,426,462 to Elabd (Elabd '462 Patent). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, and 18-20 over the Elabd '462 Patent, the November 19, 1999 filing date of the Elabd '462 Patent is after the 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority date of December 3, 1998 of the corresponding PCT Application Number PCT/JP98/05449 which predates, and therefore removes, the cited and applied Elabd '462 Patent (filing date of November 19, 1999) as a reference against the claimed subject matter of the above referenced application. Therefore withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, and 18-20 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Elabd '462 Patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,271,518 to Birzele et al. (Birzele '518 Patent). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to rejection of Claims 4 and 11-14 over the Elabd '462 Patent in view of the Birzele '518 Patent, the November 19, 1999 filing date of the Elabd '462 Patent is after the 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority date of December 3, 1998 of the corresponding PCT Application Number PCT/JP98/05449 which predates, and therefore removes, the cited and applied

primary reference of the Elabd '462 Patent (filing date of November 19, 1999) as a reference against the claimed subject matter of the above referenced application. Therefore withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claims 4 and 11-14 is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 8, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Elabd '462 Patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,022 to Chen et al. (Chen '022 Patent). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to rejection of Claims 7, 8, 21 and 22 over the Elabd '462 Patent in view of the Chen '022 Patent, the November 19, 1999 filing date of the Elabd '462 Patent and the July 6, 1999 filing date of the Chen '022 Patent are after the 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority date of December 3, 1998 of the corresponding PCT Application Number PCT/JP98/05449 which predates, and therefore removes, the cited and applied Elabd '462 Patent (filing date of November 19, 1999) and the Chen '022 Patent (filing date of July 6, 1999) as references against the claimed subject matter of the above referenced application. Therefore withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claims 7, 8, 21 and 22 is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10 and 23 through 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Elabd '462 Patent and the Chen '022 Patent in view of the Birzele '518 Patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to rejection of Claims 9, 10 and 23 through 28 over the Elabd '462 Patent and the Chen '022 Patent in view of the Birzele '518 Patent, the November 19, 1999 filing date of the Elabd '462 Patent and the July 6, 1999 filing date of the Chen '022 Patent are after the 35 U.S.C. § 120 priority date of December 3, 1998 of the corresponding PCT Application Number PCT/JP98/05449 which predates, and therefore removes, the cited and applied primary reference of the Elabd '462 Patent (filing date of November 19, 1999) and the secondary reference of the Chen '022 Patent (filing date of July 6, 1999) as references against the claimed subject matter of the above referenced application. Therefore withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claims 9, 10 and 23 through 28 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action (Paper No. 3) states that Claims 5 and 15 through 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form including the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the foregoing traversals and discussion, Claims 5 and 15 through 17 are presently not being written in independent form.

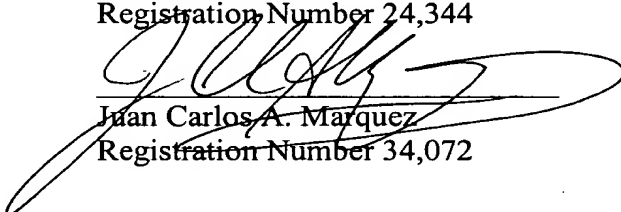
Wherefore, in view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 through 28 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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SPF/JCM/JB

Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure

A signal processing circuit having a data input-output (I/O) circuit, a microprocessor, a dedicated processing circuit, a local memory, and a memory access control circuit interconnected over a bus. The system bus connects to the data I/O circuit, microprocessor, dedicated processing circuit, and memory access control circuit. A local memory bus connects to the local memory. First, second, and third connection circuits connect between the system bus and local memory bus, between a first local bus in the dedicated processing circuit and the local memory bus, and between a second local bus in the data I/O circuit and the local memory bus. The memory access control circuit controls the first, second, and third connection circuits according to priorities assigned for the connection circuits and determines which of the second local bus, first local bus, and system bus will be connected to the local memory bus.